

Sift/Web Literacy paper

For our first paper, your assignment will be to reflect on the material you have worked through in the first week of the class and write a literacy narrative. Please note that you should have read and watched all the materials from Caulfield's website before moving to the next steps of this assignment.

You will need to read Chapter 3 in *Writing in College* by Guptill, and the posted article: "Students Still Can't Tell Fact from Fiction on the Internet."

As students you have likely been trained how to use a library, read a book, write a report, but how many of you have been trained to use the web?

This matters for many reasons. Partly it matters for school -- can you identify materials that are suitable for papers? It matters for work as well -- how reliable is the data or information you are using? And it matters for politics -- better-informed citizens and policy makers can make better decisions. It even matters for health -- what course of treatment is best for you or your family? Given how the coronavirus has changed how most of us are living our day to day lives, one could argue that it matters now more than ever.

Your paper should answer the overall question: **Given your formal and informal education to this point, do you think that schools have prepared you well to find information on the web and determine its credibility, and if not, what more do you think needs to be done?**

The paper should be organized as an "organic college paper" illustrated in Guptill figure 3.2, and should contain the following elements:

- a narrative that tells the story of how you have come about your practices of using the web to find information. You might discuss any or all of the following: formal training from your classes; informal training based on what other people might have told you; self-training—how you've used your own strategies, experiences, and insights to come to your current level of skill and understanding.
- a reflection on the material from Week 1. What strategies and tactics were you already familiar with? Which ones were new to you? What are your thoughts on usefulness of the materials?
- a consideration of the information in the article. Do you think that students' familiarity with the web gives them insights into how to vet information? Based on your experiences, do you think that schools are doing what is necessary to teach web literacy? If not, what else needs to be done?

Since I encourage us to think about writing as a process, what I'd like everyone to focus on for the rest of this week is just getting a good start on the paper by first just writing what Guptill calls a "three-story thesis" and submitting it. I will provide some feedback on the thesis so that you know you are on the right track.

Again, make sure you read Chapter 3 in Guphill, "Constructing the Thesis and Argument."
You may also want to read "Intros and Outros" and "Back to Basics" in the book as well.

Other than the assigned article, no outside sources are required for this essay, but you can refer to anything that we've read so far for class.

Your paper should be between 700-1000 words

Three-story thesis is due on Sunday, June 28th

The rough draft is due on Thursday, July 2nd

The final draft is due Monday, July 6th